

# THE SOUTHERN EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Annual Convention of This Important Body to Assemble in Richmond During Holiday Week of This Year—Large Attendance Expected—Arrangements Being Perfected.

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During the past year or two its prominence as a convention point has been especially marked. There is a steady increase in the frequency with which gatherings of various sorts are held in this city and not only is it the rendezvous of State fairs, but interests which take in the entire South, together with many associations of national scope, religious, social, professional, fraternal, educational and industrial, have made this historic capital city of the Old Dominion their Mecca.

The reasons for this gratifying evidence of Richmond's progress are many, chief among which is the wide-awake local interest shown by the substantial business men of the city. When an invitation is extended to an association to meet in Richmond, it is in itself a guarantee of a hospitable reception.

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This association is organized on the same basis as the National Educational Association, and is a branch offshoot of the national association and is designed to meet the special and peculiar needs of the southwestern territory. The National Association lacked facilities in reaching the sparsely-settled sections. There are problems constantly arising in the South that are not to be met in other sections. The people are poorer and there is the negro problem to contend with and other good and important reasons resulted in the organization in 1890 of the Southern Educational Association.

The association in 1890 consisted of two divisions, one at Mobile, Mississippi City, N. C., and the other at Montgomery, Ala. The last meeting, at Lookout Mountain, Tenn., held in 1891, resulted in a combination of the two divisions and since then meetings have been held at Atlanta, Louisville, Galveston, Hot Springs, Mobile, New Orleans and Memphis.

Dr. Geo. J. Ramsey, of the B. F. Johnson Publishing Company, of this city, was president of the association in 1888.

**REORGANIZATION PERFECTED.** A reorganization of the Association was instituted at this meeting and Dr. Ramsey was chosen as chairman of the committee on Organization. The committee reported at the Memphis meeting last year, ready with an elaborate scheme of organization and appealing "to every white teacher in the South to join in a vigorous movement for a closer and more effective union of our educational forces into an organization, which shall not only foster self improvement and a better understanding between the different branches of the service, but which shall aim to become strong enough to command attention in legislative halls, and persuasive enough to arouse and educate public opinion throughout the land in favor of better school-houses, better equipment, better salaries and more generous endowments."

The committee was continued and will report further at the Richmond meeting on the plan of organization and the elaboration of the plan as already submitted. The Association is comprehensive, wide-reaching and aggressive in its work and influence. It consists of seven divisions or departments, viz:

Division of Superintendent, President: State Superintendent J. J. Doyne of Little Rock, Ark.

Division of Higher Education, President: Dr. C. W. Dabney, president University of Tennessee.

Division of Secondary Education, President: Superintendent S. A. Minders, Jackson, Tenn.

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Division of Industrial Education, President: D. B. Johnson, Rock Hill, S. C.

Division Normal Education, President: Prof. E. C. Branson, Athens, Ga.

The general officers of the Association are:

President: Dr. R. B. Fulton, of the University of Mississippi; Vice-President: Dr. Junius Jordan, of the University of Arkansas; Secretary: Prof. P. P. Claxton, of the State Normal School, Greensboro, N. C.; Treasurer: John D. Verby, Mobile, Ala.

The topics discussed and upon which papers were prepared by specialists are varied and cover thoroughly the problems of education, as a glance at the few subjects given will show these being selected from a list of upwards of fifty topics, treated at the Memphis meeting:

"A Moral Curriculum," "The Success of the College Graduate," "A Practical Phase of Education," "From Primary School to University," "The Superintendent and His Work," "Influence of Women's Clubs in Education," "Education and Crime," "How to Improve Our Rural Schools," "The Business College is It Should Be," and others, all of which are up to date and go to show the twenty-

places of meeting—Wm. F. Fox (chairman), Dr. J. C. Johnson, Dr. S. C. Mitchell, H. F. Cox, and Dr. J. A. C. Chandler.

Publicity—A. R. Holdberry, Jr. (chairman), G. W. Worsham, Jno. Stappeter, Rev. Dr. R. H. Pitt, Rev. Dr. J. J. Lafferty, Dr. Horace Lacy Smith, Dr. George J. Ramsey, Wm. F. Fox, J. A. McGlynn, and A. S. Grosser.

Printing and Badges—W. J. Kimbrough (chairman), Dr. L. P. Blundell, Misses Kate and Lizzie W. Watson.

Bureau of Information—R. A. Lancaster, Jr. (chairman), B. Stewart Hume, Miss Carrie L. Campbell, Mrs. H. H. Richardson, Misses Mabel Glenn, Florence E. Duke and Annie Tatton.

Decorations—Henry S. Hutzler (chairman), D. H. Rucker, Misses Kate O'Neill, Mary E. Frayer, Harrie Southern, Sarah Gathway, Florence Laughton and Alma Lindner.

Exhibits—Robert Leeky, Jr. (chairman), E. Morrisette, and Miss Julia R. Henning.

The committees are actively engaged at work, and in a short time all local arrangements will be perfected.

## EVERYTHING IS IN READINESS FOR THE GREAT BATTLE OF THE BALLOTS

The Nation Waits in Breathless Anxiety for the Result of the Struggle—New Issues Make

National Situation Uncertain—Old Virginia Will Be Strongly Democratic.

The great national struggle of 1900—so far as the presentation and discussion of the issues involved is concerned—has been brought to a close.

To-morrow will be devoted to the marshalling of forces on either side, in preparation for Tuesday's battle of the ballots.

So far as Virginia is concerned there is no doubt as to the result. The old mother Commonwealth will remain as steadfast in her devotion to principles of democracy, and will give Bryan and Stevenson in the neighborhood of 25,000 majority. Impeachment party strongly to the return of a solid Democratic delegation to the Fifteenth Congress, though one or two of the districts may be close. The election of Jones, Lamb, Lassiter, Swanson, Otey, Hay, Rixey, and Flood is regarded as a settled fact; while in the Second and Ninth districts the chances are largely in favor of Maynard and Rhea, the Demo-

cratic nominees.

The campaign in Virginia has been conducted with unusual dexterity and forethought by the Democratic managers, and have been remarkably free from vituperation and personal abuse.

The issues have been discussed upon the very highest plane, by the ablest corps of speakers that has been on the hustings of the State for years; and the good results indicated above will surely come with the idea of Tuesday next.

WHERE CHAOS IS SUPREME.

The national result is by no means so easy to forecast. The situation is full of chaos and uncertainty, and the leaders on neither side can feel assured of victory.

The eyes of the nation are waiting eagerly for the end of the struggle, and myriad hosts on either side are waiting in breathless anxiety for the result of that one day's work, which will make or break the grandest repub-

lican ticket.

So far as the national candidates are concerned—and, in fact, the campaign managers of the two contending parties—they have borne themselves with becoming dignity throughout the fiercest days of the contest, with the exceptions of Senator Mark Hanna, chairman of the National Republican Committee, and Governor Theodore Roosevelt, the candidate of the Republican party for President. They have both employed the vilest epithets with which to denounce Mr. Bryan and the Democratic party on the stump, and the more conservative of the Republicans express opinion that they have made valuable contribution to the overthrow of their party at the polls.

The former has said that Mr. Bryan was " unfit to be a constable in Nebraska," and made many other mean slings at the Democratic champion; while the latter has paraded through the country, under his Rough Rider hat, denouncing the Democratic party as a set of " miserable scoundrels, anarchists, and cut-throats," who, if placed in charge of the government at Washington, would "ruin the country and destroy the national honor."

DIGNIFIED AND CONSERVATIVE.

Present McKinley has remained quietly at his home in Canton, during the greater part of the struggle, and his behavior has been in thorough keeping with the dignity of the high office he holds. Mr. Bryan, while prosecuting as brilliant and vigorous a stump canvass as he waged in 1896, has kept himself constantly upon the high plane which marked his advent into politics, and has steadfastly refused to engage in any mud-slinging or personal abuse of his opponents, preferring to discuss the issues involved in the struggle, rather than the records of men. "The Grand Old Man of the Middle West" will be a constant time-bomb forward by his party for vice-president, has preserved his w. H. kind of dignity and conservatism throughout the entire struggle, and enjoys the respect and confidence of all.

But the great battle of 1900 is going to be decided next Tuesday upon the issues involved in the controversy, rather than upon the popularity of the candidates. If there were no party questions at issue, the average man would care very little about the result, for President McKinley and Mr. Bryan are both men of high character and recognized ability.

ISSUES MAKE IT DOUBTFUL.

The fact that there are issues—great, new issues—never before brought to the attention of the people makes the result of the election hard to forecast, and gives hope to the leaders of the two contending parties.

The railroads of the South have made a one fare plus two dollars round-trip rate for members of the association, and those attending the convention, and this rate, together with the fact that the convention is to be held during holiday week, when all the teachers have a week or more vacation, will insure a big attendance.

Upon the two leading questions involved—imperialism and trusts—the Republicans have taken the offensive from start to finish. They have paraded in lightly putting aside the formality in which the Democratic platform declared paramount, and have endeavored to make " honest money " and " full dinner pails" their campaign slogans. But the Democratic speakers have ingeniously met their argument by saying that the Republicans claimed when they passed the gold-standard bill that the currency question was settled for all time; and even if this were not true, there could not be so much danger in silver, when the McKinley Administration is coining it at the ratio of 16 to 1 with gold, at the rate of a million and a half dollars per month, which was more than had ever been coined before in the same length of time.

The Democrats have ridiculed the "full dinner pail" argument, and said it was an appeal to the appetites of men, rather than to their principles.

STUCK TO IMPERIALISM.

They have refused to be drawn away from the discussion of imperialism, and have made it their campaign cry from ocean to ocean, forcing the Republican speakers to meet it as best they could.

Upon that and their opposition to trusts they have staked their all, and assert their willingness to abide the sober judgment of the American people at the polls.

Whatever may be the result, there is no doubt that many questions growing out of recent foreign wars have seriously embarrassed the administration and given the Democratic orators much effective campaign argument. They have held up the dangers of a large standing army, and contended that the policy of the administration in the Philippines tended toward the overthrow of the republic and the establishment of an empire; they have arraigned the Republicans for the Porto Rican tariff, and held that it was in violation of the well-established American doctrine that " taxation without representation is tyranny." The Neely and Rathbone postal steals and other grave political scandals in Cuba have not escaped them, and they have denounced the debauchery and lamented the suffering sold to exist among the American soldiers in the Philippines with splendid effect.

LEADERS NOT AGREED.

They have bitterly assailed the trusts, and have found one of their most effective arguments against them in the many illegal positions taken on the subject by the Republican leadrs.

Senator Hanna was quoted as saying "there are no trusts"; Senator Scott, of West Virginia, that "I am in favor of trusts"; some other prominent leader that "there are good trusts and bad trusts"; so, the Democratic speakers hardly had to put themselves to the trouble to suggest a remedy for the trust evil, so vulnerable did they find the position of their Republican opponents on the subject. The remedy which they did offer, however, was old-fashioned Democratic doctrine, and apparently found a warm response in the hearts of the plain people. It was to tear down the tariff walls around the articles imported by the trusts, invite the free competition, and permit the people to buy and sell their products in the markets of the world; which, with a rigid enforcement of the anti-trust laws now on the statute books, they contended would limit the powers of the trusts and check them in their mad career.

THE DEMOCRATIC HOPE.

The Democratic managers base their hopes of success upon this new issue of imperialism, and say the American people will never be led into placing the dollar above the Constitution, even under the leadership of the party.

The result of new issues is, in the very nature of things, always uncertain. In addition to this they argue that many of the greatest leaders of the party who rebelled against the silver plank of 1896 are loyally supporting the ticket this year; that a large voting vote in the country is to be given against the party, and that the independent German vote is largely for Mr. Bryan; that New York and Indiana, whose votes would easily turn the tide to him, have not voted for the same party in a presidential contest twice in succession since 1866, and that in the light of past history, on general principles, this is a Democratic year.

But politics, after all, is but a game of chance, and what a great nation like this will do in a presidential year is beyond the power of man to foretell. In this age of restlessness and innovation stranger things have happened than a landslide to either party; and there are wise men in the country who would not be surprised to see either Bryan or McKinley riding to the White House next Tuesday upon the crest of a tidal wave.

While the campaign has been devoid of that wild excitement which characterized the great struggle of 1896, yet it has been full of consuming interest, and the leaders on both sides will feel much relieved when it is over.

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